AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior versions and listings of claims with the following listing of claims.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (**Currently Amended**) A method for automatically determining at least one modal value of non-numeric data, the method comprising:

selecting a data subset from a dataset, the data subset comprising at least a portion of the dataset and including at least one non-numeric value;

sorting the selected data subset by said at least one non-numeric value;

processing the sorted data subset to identify one or more modal groups, each modal group including one or more instances of a substantially identical value;

determining a modal count for each modal group, each modal count including a number of instances of the substantially identical value in the associated modal group;

determining a highest one or more modal counts;

determining at least one modal value based, at least in part, on the one or more modal groups, wherein said determining at least one modal value includes:

selecting the substantially identical value from each modal group associated with the highest modal count, and

assigning each selected substantially identical value to a modal value; and outputting the at least one modal value.

2. (**Original**) The method of Claim 1, wherein selecting the data subset from the dataset comprises querying a database.

3.   (**Original**) The method of Claim 1, each value of the data subset comprising one of the following data types:

float;

integer;

currency;

date;

decimal; or

string.

4.   (**Canceled**)

5.   (**Canceled**)

6.   (**Canceled**)

7.   (**Currently Amended**) The method of Claim 1 [[5]], further comprising assigning a null value to one modal value in response to each modal count being equal to one.

8.   (**Currently Amended**) The method of Claim 1 [[4]], one of the modal groups comprising at least one lowercase string value and at least one mixed-case string value.

9.   (**Previously Presented**) The method of Claim 1, wherein determining at least one modal value based on the selected data subset comprises:

selecting one data object from the data subset;

comparing a value of the data object to a plurality of stored values in a lookup table, each stored value being associated with one modal count;

adding one to the associated modal count in response to the value of the data object being located in the plurality of stored values;

selecting a highest one or more modal counts from the lookup table; and

assigning each stored value associated with one of the highest modal counts to one modal value.

10.   (**Currently Amended**) A computer readable medium containing computer-executable instructions for automatically determining at least one modal value of non-numeric data, the computer-executable instructions operable when executed to:

select a data subset from a dataset, the data subset comprising at least a portion of the dataset and including at least one non-numeric value;

sort the selected data subset by said at least one non-numeric value;

process the sorted data subset to identify one or more modal groups, wherein each modal group comprises one or more instances of a substantially identical value;

determine a modal count for each modal group, wherein each modal count comprises a number of instances of the substantially identical value in the associated modal group;

determine a highest one or more modal counts;

determine at least one modal value based, at least in part, on the one or more modal groups, wherein said instruction operable to determine at least one modal value further includes computer-executable instructions operable to:

select the substantially identical value from each modal group associated with the highest modal count, and

assign each selected substantially identical value to a modal value; and

output the at least one modal value.

11.   (**Previously Presented**) The computer readable medium of Claim 10, wherein selecting the data subset from the dataset comprises querying a database.

12.   (**Previously Presented**) The computer readable medium of Claim 10, each value of the data subset comprising one of the following data types:

float;

integer;

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currency;

date;

decimal; or

string.

13. **(Canceled)**

14. **(Canceled)**

15. **(Canceled)**

16. **(Currently Amended)** The computer readable medium of Claim 10 [[14]], the computer-executable instructions further operable when executed to assign a null value to one modal value in response to each modal count being equal to one.

17. **(Currently Amended)** The computer readable medium of Claim 10 [[13]], one of the modal groups comprising at least one lowercase string value and at least one mixed-case string value.

18. **(Previously Presented)** The computer readable medium of Claim 10, wherein the computer-executable instructions are further operable when executed to determine at least one modal value based on the selected data subset by:

selecting one data object from the data subset;

comparing a value of the data object to a plurality of stored values in a lookup table, each stored value being associated with one modal count;

adding one to the associated modal count in response to the value of the data object being located in the plurality of stored values;

selecting a highest one or more modal counts from the lookup table; and

assigning each stored value associated with one of the highest modal counts to one modal value.

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19.   (**Currently Amended**) A system for automatically determining at least one modal value of non-numeric data, the system comprising:

a memory operable to store a data set, the data set comprising a plurality of data objects and each data object comprising a data type and a value; and

one or more processors operable to:

select a data subset from the dataset, the data subset comprising at least a portion of the plurality of data objects and including at least one non-numeric value;

sort the selected data subset by said at least one non-numeric value;

process the sorted data subset to identify one or more modal groups, wherein each modal group comprises one or more instances of a substantially identical value;

determine at least one modal value based, at least in part, on the one or more modal groups, wherein said processors operable to determine at least one modal value further include computer-executable instructions operable to:

determine a modal count for each modal group, wherein each modal count comprises a number of instances of the substantially identical value in the associated modal group,

determine a highest one or more modal counts,

select the substantially identical value from each modal group associated with the highest modal count, and

assign each selected substantially identical value to one modal value; and

output the at least one modal value.

20.   (**Previously Presented**) The system of Claim 19, wherein the processors are operable to select the data subset from the dataset by querying a database.

21.   (**Original**) The system of Claim 19, each data object comprising one of the following data types:

> float;
>
> integer;
>
> currency;
>
> date;
>
> decimal; or
>
> string.

22.   (**Canceled**)

23.   (**Canceled**)

24.   (**Canceled**)

25.   (**Currently Amended**) The system of Claim 19 [[23]], the processors further operable to assign a null value to one modal value in response to each modal count being equal to one.

26.   (**Currently Amended**) The system of Claim 19 [[22]], one of the modal groups comprising at least one lowercase string value and at least one mixed-case string value.

27.   (**Previously Presented**) The system of Claim 19, wherein the processors are operable to determine at least one modal value based on the selected data subset by:

> selecting one data object from the data subset;
>
> comparing a value of the data object to a plurality of stored values in a lookup table, each stored value being associated with one modal count;
>
> adding one to the associated modal count in response to the value of the data object being located in the plurality of stored values;
>
> selecting a highest one or more modal counts from the lookup table; and

assigning each stored value associated with one of the highest modal counts to one modal value.

28.   (**Canceled**)

29.   (**New**) A method for automatically determining at least one modal value of non-numeric data, the method comprising:

selecting a data subset from a dataset, the data subset comprising at least a portion of the dataset and including at least one non-numeric value;

sorting the selected data subset by value;

processing the sorted data subset to identify one or more modal groups, each modal group comprising one or more instances of a substantially similar value;

determining a modal count for each modal group, each modal count comprising a number of instances of the substantially similar value in the associated modal group;

determining a highest one or more modal counts;

determining at least one modal value based, at least in part, on the one or more modal groups, wherein

the substantially similar value from each modal group associated with the highest modal count is selected; and

each selected substantially similar value is assigned to a modal value;

and outputting the at least one modal value.